

<b>TITLE: DEPARTMENT PHILOSOPHY</b>	<b>NUMBER 1.1</b>
<b>EFFECTIVE DATE: 06-02-2008</b>	<b>PAGE 1 OF 4</b>
<b>REVISION HISTORY: (Adopted 09-01-94)R2/06-02-2008</b>	

### **1.1.1 GENERAL PHILOSOPHY**

The role of police in a free society is the protection of constitutional guarantees, maintenance of public order, prevention and suppression of crime, and dutiful response to the needs of the community.

Police officers are accountable to the community for their decisions. A high percentage of police work is done in response to citizen complaints, highlighting the fact that members of the public are an integral part of the criminal justice system. The success of the criminal justice system depends more on citizen participation than on any other single factor. Public confidence in the criminal justice system depends to a large extent on the trust that the people have in their police.

The citizens of Greensboro depend upon the Greensboro Police to achieve and maintain order. We draw our authority from the will and consent of the citizens whom we serve. Our efforts are founded on the principles of service and ultimate responsibility to the public.

The specific goals and priorities which the Department establishes are determined to a large extent by community desires. These desires are transmitted by the community and the governing body of the City of Greensboro. The Department conscientiously strives to be responsive to these desires.

### **1.1.2 CODES OF ETHICS AND CONDUCT**

All sworn police officers must abide by the "Law Enforcement Code of Ethics" and the "Police Code of Conduct" as published by the International Association of Chiefs of Police.

## **POLICE CODE OF ETHICS**

**As a law enforcement officer**, my fundamental duty is to serve mankind; to safeguard lives and property; to protect the innocent against deception, the weak against oppression or intimidation, and the peaceful against violence or disorder; and to respect the Constitutional Rights of all men to liberty, equality, and justice.

**I will** keep my private life unsullied as an example to all, maintain courageous calm in the face of danger, scorn, or ridicule; develop self-restraint; and be constantly mindful of the welfare of others. Honest in thought and deed in both my personal and official life, I will be exemplary in obeying the laws of the land and the regulations of my Department. Whatever I see or hear of a confidential nature or that is confided to me in my official capacity will be kept ever secret unless revelation is necessary in the performance of my duty.

**I will** never act officiously or permit personal feelings, prejudices, animosities, or friendships to influence my decisions. With no compromise for crime and with relentless prosecution of criminals, I will enforce the law courteously and appropriately without fear or favor, malice or ill will, never employing unnecessary force or violence and never accepting gratuities.

<b>TITLE: DEPARTMENT PHILOSOPHY</b>	<b>NUMBER 1.1</b>
	<b>PAGE 2 OF 4</b>

**I recognize** the badge of my office as a symbol of public faith, and I accept it as a public trust to be held so long as I am true to the ethics of police service. I will constantly strive to achieve those objectives and ideals, dedicating myself before God to my chosen profession--law enforcement.

## **POLICE CODE OF CONDUCT**

All law enforcement officers must be fully aware of the ethical responsibilities of their position and must strive constantly to live up to the highest possible standards of professional policing.

The International Association of Chiefs of Police believes it important that police officers have clear advice and counsel available to assist them in performing their duties consistent with these standards, and has adopted the following ethical mandates as guidelines to meet these ends.

### **PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITIES OF A POLICE OFFICER**

A police officer acts as an official representative of government who is required and trusted to work within the law. The officer's powers and duties are conferred by statute. The fundamental duties of a police officer include serving the community, safeguarding lives and property, protecting the innocent, keeping the peace and ensuring the rights of all to liberty, equality and justice.

### **PERFORMANCE OF THE DUTIES OF A POLICE OFFICER**

A police officer shall perform all duties impartially, without favor or affection or ill will and without regard to status, sex, race, religion, political belief or aspiration. All citizens will be treated equally with courtesy, consideration and dignity.

Officers will never allow personal feelings, animosities or friendships to influence official conduct. Laws will be enforced appropriately and courteously and, in carrying out their responsibilities, officers will strive to obtain maximum cooperation from the public. They will conduct themselves in appearance and deportment in such a manner as to inspire confidence and respect for the position of public trust they hold.

### **DISCRETION**

A police officer will use responsibly the discretion vested in his position and exercise it within the law. The principle of reasonableness will guide the officer's determinations, and the officer will consider all surrounding circumstances in determining whether any legal action shall be taken.

Consistent and wise use of discretion, based on professional policing competence, will do much to preserve good relationships and retain the confidence of the public. There can be difficulty in choosing between conflicting courses of action. It is important to remember that a timely word of advice rather than arrest--which may be correct in appropriate circumstances--can be a more effective means of achieving a desired end.

### **USE OF FORCE**

A police officer will never employ unnecessary force or violence and will use only such force in the discharge of duty as is reasonable in all circumstances.

The use of force should be used only with the greatest restraint and only after discussion, negotiation and persuasion have been found to be inappropriate or ineffective. While the use of force is occasionally unavoidable, every police officer will refrain from unnecessary infliction of pain or suffering and will never engage in cruel, degrading, or inhuman treatment of any person.

### **CONFIDENTIALITY**

Whatever a police officer sees, hears, or learns that is of a confidential nature will be kept secret unless the performance of duty or legal provision requires otherwise.

Members of the public have a right to security and privacy, and information obtained about them must not be improperly divulged.

### **INTEGRITY**

A police officer will not engage in acts of corruption or bribery, nor will an officer condone such acts by other police officers.

The public demands that the integrity of police officers be above reproach. Police officers must, therefore, avoid any conduct that might compromise integrity and thus undercut the public confidence in a law enforcement agency. Officers will refuse to accept any gifts, presents, subscriptions, favors, gratuities or promises that could be interpreted as seeking to cause the officer to refrain from performing official responsibilities honestly and within the law. Police officers must not receive private or special advantage from their official status. Respect from the public cannot be bought; it can only be earned and cultivated.

### **COOPERATION WITH OTHER POLICE OFFICERS AND AGENCIES**

Police officers will cooperate with all legally authorized agencies and their representatives in the pursuit of justice.

An officer or agency may be one among many organizations that may provide law enforcement services to a jurisdiction. It is imperative that a police officer assist colleagues fully and completely with respect and consideration at all times.

### **PERSONAL/PROFESSIONAL CAPABILITIES**

Police officers will be responsible for their own standard of professional performance and will take every reasonable opportunity to enhance and improve their level of knowledge and competence.

Through study and experience, a police officer can acquire the high level of knowledge and competence that is essential for the efficient and effective performance of duty. The acquisition of knowledge is a never ending process of personal and professional development that should be pursued constantly.

### **PRIVATE LIFE**

Police officers will behave in a manner that does not bring discredit to their agencies or themselves.

<b>TITLE: DEPARTMENT PHILOSOPHY</b>	<b>NUMBER 1.1</b>
	<b>PAGE 4 OF 4</b>

A police officer's character and conduct while off duty must always be exemplary, thus maintaining a position of respect in the community in which he or she lives and serves. The officer's personal behavior must be beyond reproach.

### **1.1.3 CODE OF ETHICS-CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES**

I will keep my private life unsullied as an example to all; develop self-restraint and be constantly mindful of the welfare of others. Honest in thought and deed in personal and official life, I will be exemplary in obeying the laws of the land and the regulations of the Department. Whatever I see or hear of a confidential nature or that is confided in me in my official capacity will be kept ever secret unless revelation is necessary in the performance of my duty.

### **1.1.4 TRAINING**

All agency personnel will receive ethics training. This training will be provided at least biennially.